



O U N D L E   U R B A N   D I S T R I C T   C O U N C I L

H E A L T H   I N   O U N D L E   I N   1 9 6 3

T H E   A N N U A L   R E P O R T

F O R   T H E   Y E A R   E N D E D   3 1 S T   D E C E M B E R ,   1 9 6 3 .

S U B M I T T E D   B Y

A l e x a n d e r   G a t h e r e r ,   M . D . ,   C h . B . ,   D . P . H . ,   D . I . H .

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H

Council Offices,  
6 North Street,  
Oundle.



OUNDLÉ URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1963.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my second Annual Report on the health of Oundle during the year 1963.

The health of Oundle remains highly satisfactory, with a birth rate above and a death rate below the national average. In 1963 there were again no stillbirths and no maternal deaths. All but a few of the deaths last year were caused by diseases of old age, such as degenerative conditions of the heart and blood vessels, chronic respiratory disease and cancer. Death under the age of 65 years is unusual in Oundle.

While the general picture is good, it must be remembered that the health of any community depends on constant vigilance. The outbreak of typhoid fever in Aberdeen brought forcibly to mind the importance of food hygiene and the value of prompt and effective action. In a town like Oundle, with its famous school attracting boys from all parts of the world, the possibility of the introduction of infectious disease is always present. It is essential that the public health services should be adequate to cope with anything likely to arise.

The work of the public health inspector, frequently no more than routine checks and time consuming enquiries, is an essential basis for health protection. His duties continue to widen as new legislation and new developments bring further services under his care.

The public themselves should play a significant part in the maintenance of the health of their community. Those of us concerned in this field can indicate how they can help by an active policy of health education. The greatest threat to health in the future will come from a failure to obey simple health rules, a failure to implement knowledge, most of which is already known. Although the major part of the responsibility for this increasingly important aspect of preventive medicine belongs to the County Council, the Oundle Urban District Council can rightly share in the task and thus encourage the development of health education.

The future, undoubtedly, lies in constant readiness and in statutory and voluntary cooperation. It is therefore a pleasure for me to express my sincere thanks to the many people on whose efforts the health of Oundle depends - to members of the Oundle Urban District Council and to my fellow officers; to the general practitioners; to the voluntary societies; to the County Medical Officer of Health and his staff; to Mr. R. E. T. Chinnery who so ably carries the day-to-day responsibilities; and to everyone who accepts that the health of the community is his concern.

I have the honour to be,

Yours faithfully,

A. GATHERER,

Medical Officer of Health.



GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE:

Medical Officer of Health: A. Gatherer, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.I.H.  
Surveyor, Water Engineer & Public Health Inspector:  
R. E. T. Chinnery, F.F.S., M.I.P.H.E.,  
Cert. S.I.B.  
District Nurses: Miss L. L. Misson and Miss E. M. Cates.  
Health Visitor: Miss K. Pulley.

VITAL STATISTICS:

|                                     |   |             |               |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------|---------------|
| <u>Population:</u>                  | Estimated mid-year population - 3,380.                |             |               |
| <u>Live births:</u>                 |   | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|                                     | Legitimate .. .. .                                    | 16          | 32            |
|                                     | Illegitimate . . . . .                                | 3           | 1             |
|                                     |   | 19          | 33            |
| <u>Live birth rate (corrected):</u> | 20.3 per 1,000 population (England and Wales - 18.2). |             |               |
| <u>Illegitimate live births:</u>    | 7.6 percent of total live births.                     |             |               |
| <u>Stillbirths:</u>                 | Nil.  |             |               |
| <u>Total live and stillbirths:</u>  | .. .. .   | 19          | 33            |
| <u>Infant deaths (under 1 year)</u> | .. .. .   | Nil         | 1             |
| <u>Maternal deaths:</u>             | Nil.  |             |               |
| <u>Total deaths:</u>                | .....   | 24          | 29            |
| <u>Death rate (corrected):</u>      | 8.2 per 1,000 population (England and Wales - 12.2).  |             |               |
| <u>Causes of death:</u>             |   |             |               |
|                                     | Cardiovascular diseases .. ..                         | 17          | 15            |
|                                     | Malignant diseases .. .. .                            | 3           | 3             |
|                                     | Respiratory diseases .. .. .                          | 2           | 5             |
|                                     | Other causes .. .. .                                  | 2           | 6             |
|                                     | <u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u> .....                         | 24          | 29            |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| <u>Notifications:</u>  |    |
| Measles .. .. .        | 10 |
| Whooping cough .. .. . | 1  |

## WATER SUPPLY:

The water supply throughout Oundle Urban District has been satisfactory in quantity and quality during the year. Bacteriological tests on samples have all been reported as very satisfactory.

## FACTORY ACT:

### Part I of the Act.

1. Inspection by the Public Health Inspector for the purposes of provisions concerning health.

| Premises  | Number<br>on<br>Register | Number of   |                    |                          |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
|   |                          | Inspection. | Written<br>Notices | Occupiers<br>prosecuted. |
| (1)   | (2)                      | (3)         | (4)                | (5)                      |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.                     | 16                       | 16          | -                  | -                        |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.                     | 1                        | 1           | -                  | -                        |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises). | -                        | -           | -                  | -                        |
|   | 17                       | 17          | -                  | -                        |

2. Cases in which defects were found - none.

### Part VIII of the Act.

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111) - nil.



O U N D L E   U R B A N   D I S T R I C T   C O U N C I L

ANNUAL   REPORT   FOR   THE   YEAR   ENDED   31st   DECEMBER, 1963.

SUBMITTED BY:-

R. E. T. CHINNERY, F.F.S., M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I.

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.


Council Offices,

6 North Street,

OUNDE,

Nr. Peterborough.





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# C O U N D L E   U R B A N   D I S T R I C T   C O U N C I L

Annual Report of the Surveyor and Public Health  
Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1963.

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Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present this my sixth Annual Report upon Sanitary Conditions in the Urban District, and a summary of the public health work carried out in my department during the year under review.

## 1. Water Supplies.

The Nene and Ouse Water Board, operative as from the 1st April, 1962 took over control of this Council's water undertaking as from the 1st April, 1963, this Council having operated the undertaking as agents during the interim period so as to enable the Board to assemble staff and build up the administration over its wide area.

Samples taken during the year were all reported as being bacteriologically 'very satisfactory'. A periodic check is made of the residual chlorine content of the water as delivered from the mains, following filtration and chlorination treatment at the works, in order to ensure the sterility of water supplied to consumers.

## 2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The new sewage disposal works, off the Cotterstock Road, OUNDLE, completed in November, 1962 came into full operation as and when the new sewers and pumping stations were completed.

New sewers were only provided where absolutely essential, i.e. from the Market Place end of St. Osyth's Lane, along East Road, Station Road and part of New Road to the main pumping station from whence sewage has to be pumped to the disposal works for treatment. Another smaller pumping station lifts sewage from the Mill Road - Stoke Road area into the main sewers, while another pumping station is necessary at the disposal works for dealing with storm water, re-circulation and disposal of sludge.

Some difficulty was experienced through excess storm water overloading the tanks and filters; this was, however, remedied by replacing certain parts of the valve controlling the inlet, so as to reduce the amount of sewage passed through the works for full treatment in times of storm.

Apart from this occurrence, the plant produced consistently an effluent of good standard.

In November, 1963 the Chairman planted an oak tree on the disposal site to signalise the completion of the scheme and of a tree and shrub planting programme which will eventually shield and enhance the appearance of the site.

## 3. Housing.

### (a) Provision of New Houses by the Local Authority.

The completion of the Inkerman Yard clearance and re-development scheme was in sight at the end of the year, the three remaining Old Persons' Bungalows in the former Victoria Yard and the terrace of four three-bedroomed houses fronting West Street being under construction.

The construction of eighteen three-bedroomed houses, seven two-bedroomed bungalows and a shop was completed in November, 1963. The Council has land for about 100 additional houses on this site and the provision of shopping facilities, in the case of a general store, which may perhaps be added to as development proceeds, is a





Disposal of refuse by controlled tipping on the Council-owned tip continues to operate satisfactorily.

5. Public Conveniences, Cemetery and Churchyard.

These were maintained to a satisfactory standard during the year.

6. Slaughterhouses, Food Inspection.

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the Urban District.

Visits are paid to food premises, principally retail shops, particularly in the summer months, and the co-operation of Food Traders generally is appreciated in maintaining a high standard of equipment and food handling hygiene generally.

During the year the following amounts of unsound food were surrendered voluntarily:-

- 58 lbs. fish.
- 20 lbs. tinned fruit.
- 18 lbs. tinned meat.
- 46 lbs. Butcher's meat.
- 27 lbs. tinned jam.

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Northants. County Council, for the following details of samples taken in Oundle by his Inspectors.

SAMPLES TAKEN IN OUNDLE URBAN DISTRICT  
DURING THE YEAR, 1963.

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| MILK . . . . .             | 18       |
| MILKY DRINKS . . . . .     | 1        |
| MEAT PRODUCTS . . . . .    | 3        |
| BUTTER . . . . .           | 1        |
| DOUBLE CREAM . . . . .     | 1        |
| REDCURRANT JELLY . . . . . | 1        |
| SPIRITS . . . . .          | 3        |
| CHEESE SPREAD . . . . .    | <u>1</u> |
| <u>TOTALS:-</u>            | 29       |
|                            | <u>=</u> |

REMARKS.

Three samples of milk taken from two different retailers, were found to be below standard in fat but following action taken by the department, improvements were effected in the mixing or the supply of the milk concerned and repeat samples showed a considerable improvement.

The remaining samples were found to be completely satisfactory.

SALE OF FOOD (WEIGHTS AND MEASURES) ACT, 1926.  
LABELLING OF FOOD ORDER, 1953.

2,335 articles of food were checked for weight or measure compared with 2,116 for last year. 34 articles were found to have slight deficiencies but all of these were dealt with by advice or warning to the traders concerned.

7. Disinfection, Disinfestation.

No terminal disinfection after Infectious Disease was necessary.

The arrangements by which one of the Council's outside staff

who has received special training, undertakes the destruction of rodents, continued to operate satisfactorily.

All public properties are kept clear of infestation, private houses and gardens are dealt with free, while a charge is made in respect of treatment at trade premises.

The agreement with Oundle School, under which the Council undertakes, on a fixed payment basis, to deal with infestations on all school properties, continued to operate with satisfactory results.

8. General.

This Report can again only touch briefly upon those aspects of the Council's duties upon which Annual Reports are required by the Ministry of Health.

Detailed statistics or financial details are not included as these have been furnished to the Council or appropriate Committee at the relevant time; the compiling of them again for the purpose of this Report would place a severe strain upon the small office staff.

The year has again been a busy one, and one in which I trust the Council feel that reasonable progress has been maintained with work and projects in hand.

Once again I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Chairman and all other Members of the Council for their continued consideration and helpfulness throughout the year.

My thanks, to which I am sure that of the Council will be joined, are also due to the Council's outside staff, for the way in which they continue to maintain Oundle's reputation as a clean, well maintained town with public services second to none, very often under bad weather conditions when essential services have to be carried out just the same.

I am,  
Your obedient Servant,  
R. E. T. CHINNERY,  
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.